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OGBONNE, IJEOMA PAULINE,
*Institute of African Studies,
University of Nigeria, Nsukka*

IS ETHNICITY A MAJOR DETERMINANT OF ACHIEVING NATIONAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS? A FOCUS ON NIGERIA

This study aimed at examining public perceptions of the impact of ethnicity on economic development in Nigeria. Survey research design was used for the study while the questionnaire was the instrument for data collection. A total of 384 persons took part in the study. In the analysis of data for the study, the researcher used mean and standard deviation. The result of this study revealed that ethnicity negatively impacts on economic development in the area of infrastructures such as electricity, market development, transportation, housing scheme, ICT and water scheme. It was also found that ethnicity negatively impacts on economic development in the area of human development such as education, health, gender empowerment, employment creation and wealth creation. In line with the result of this study, the researcher concludes that ethnicity negatively impacts on economic development.

Keywords: *Ethnicity; economic development; Nigeria; public perceptions.*

Introduction. Ethnicity is one of the central concepts used to express identity. As a concept, ethnicity is thought to be essential in defining human behaviour. This is largely because it is believed that people attach emotions when issues are tied to their ethnic affiliations. Green [2006] holds that ethnicity has become an issue of discourse in the field of political economy, in which case many scholars have studied the relationship between ethnicity and civil war, growth, institutions and violence using econometric tools. The import of the assertion of Green is that the attainment of economic development objectives can be viewed through the prism of ethnicity.

Development in international parlance covers the need and the means by which to provide better lives for people in developing countries. It includes not only economic growth but also human development - providing nutrition, education and a clean environment [Levin Institute 2015, Sotubo & Chidozie, 2014]. Development is a general concept which describes the improvement in the standard of living of people which when viewed through the prism of a nation, it is called national development. National development refers to the ability of a nation to improve the lives of its citizens. Lukpata [2013] notes that the term national development is used to refer to a state of maturity of a nation-state. This maturity is because of the interplay of modern political, economic and social forces and processes that transform diverse people, shaping a common geographical area, from acceptance and allegiance to and participation in a transitional policy to the acceptance and creations of and participation in a modern nation-state. Development objective has been conceptualized in this study to mean goals aimed at making the society a better place through human development, security, economy and infrastructure. Examples of development objectives include the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs), the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDs) among others. All these developmental objectives are aimed at improving the quality of life among human beings. Ibietan and Ekhosuehi [2013] corroborate that different regimes in Nigeria had during the past presented and attempted comprehensive plans which were geared towards achieving development in the state and that these plans captured programmes that were to enhance the general welfare of the citizens and the nation at large. Ibietan and Ekhosuehi, add that development and growth have been government's top priorities since the attainment of independence because development planning can be seen as the only avenue where the allocation and utilization of resources can be adequately handled. Osakwe [2010] attributed the failure in previous developmental objectives, especially in the area of poverty reduction and job creation to the inability of the country to go through the normal process of structural transformation. Osakwe posits that the strategies employed by Nigeria government have not resulted to an increase of productive capacities and structural change which are the pivot for generating any productive employment opportunities and reducing poverty to a minimal level. Thus, the efforts made by various governments have not been worthwhile as unemployment, poverty and inequality are still on the increase. In the view of Ibietan and Ekhosuehi [2013], the absence of coordination and harmonisation of programmes/policies both within the tenure of an administration and those after it has impeded development. Adah and Abasilim [2015] argue that despite all efforts by Nigerian government to achieve development, why has it been difficult for its attainment can be visibly appreciated and undeniable by her citizens.

It is essential to state here that development and the

economy are very much related. In fact, all the indices of measuring development have an economic dimension. For instance, if people are educated, they are likely to get decent employment, live decent lives. When people have access to medical health care services, they need economic power to pay for such services, when people have economic power, they pay taxes for the government to provide them with social services. The International Economic Development Council (nd) affirms that economic development can be described based on objectives which are usually described as the creation of jobs and wealth, and the improvement of the quality of life. International Economic Development Council adds that in the broadest sense, economic development covers three main aspects viz: (1) Policies that government undertakes to meet broad financial objectives including inflation control, high employment, and sustainable growth. (2) Policies and programs to offer services such as building highways, managing parks, and providing medical access to the disadvantaged. (3) Policies and programs explicitly directed at improving the business climate through specific efforts, business finance, marketing, neighbourhood development, business retention and expansion, technology transfer, real estate development and others. In this study, the researcher examined how ethnicity could be a determinant in promoting/limiting national and economic development in Nigeria.

Development Objective and the Nigerian State.

Nigeria is facing development challenges in the area of politics, economy, human resources, infrastructure, commerce among others. These problems have made life very uncomfortable for the masses. These problems are also tied to economic development. This sad reality has challenged the position of Nigeria as the giant of Africa. Jackson and Madaki [2014] affirm that although Nigeria is the most populous nation in Africa and rich in material resources, its development aspirations and strategy have been fraught with crises since independence in 1960. Jackson and Madaki give an example of the increasing cases of hunger, inflation, budget deficits, debt overhang, street begging, prostitution, frauds, high crime rates in major cities, terrorist insurgency, poverty, youth unemployment, the collapse of manufacturing industries, corruption in public service and stagnation in entrepreneurial development. Adah and Abasilim [2014] hold that the personal worth of any national government is the attainment of a qualitative level of development largely because it is a crucial aspect of any nation's drive to self-reliance. According to Lawal [2011] development is a vital necessity for the growth and sustenance of any vibrant nation. What this means is that, for development to take place, socio-political and economic stability must be certain at all levels of government because this will promote citizens natural attachment to the governing process. In as much as development is vital to any nation's progress [Adah & Abasilim, 2014]. When development takes place in a country and cuts across all the citizens of a country, it is called national development.

National development describes to the ability of a nation to improve the lives of its citizens. The Indicators of improvement may be material, like an improvement in the gross domestic product, or social, such as literacy rates and availability of healthcare. Lukpata [2013] notes that the term national development is used about a state of maturity of a nation-state. With the situation in Nigeria, can the country said to be witnessing national development? According to the 2014 world development indicators

released by the World Bank shows that 63.1% of Nigerians population leave below \$1.25 a day while 83.1% leave below \$2 a day. The result further showed that only 28% of Nigerians have access to improved sanitation facilities and 64% have access to improved water source. The implication of this result is that, 72% of Nigerians do not have access to improved sanitation and 36% do not have access to improved water source. This is not cheering news at all. Equally disturbing is the fact that the carbon dioxide emission in Nigeria stands at 78.9 million metric tons while electricity production is recorded at 27.0 billion kilowatt hours. It should be noted that carbon dioxide emissions are primary source of greenhouse gases which contribute to global warming, threatening human and natural habits. On the other hand, the use of energy is vital in improving people's standard of living. Another shocking finding of the World Bank is that Nigeria's high technology exports, that is percentage of manufactured and exported technology in Nigeria is 1.9%. It should be noted that the method for determining high-technology exports was developed by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in collaboration with Eurostat. [World Bank, 2014]. It takes a product approach (rather than a sectoral approach) based on research and development intensity (expenditure divided by total sales). In simple terms, high-technology and development intensity such as in computers, pharmaceuticals, scientific instrument and electrical machinery. In summation, therefore, the state of national development in Nigeria vis-à-vis the economy, technology, social welfare, security, infrastructural development et al. calls for worry as the country is far from getting it right [Essein & Gever, 2016].

Equally problematic is published data by the National Bureau of Statistics [2010] which indicates that 40% of the children aged less than 15 years make up Nigeria's population of 3 million (8.1%) and that the children under 15 years of age have never attended school while the school dropout rate among children was estimated at a little above 1 million. This issue bothers on development objectives because education is a critical component in development related issues. At the moment, Nigeria's literacy rate is 61%, little below India with 62% while countries like Canada, Estonia, Australia and the UK have achieved 99% literacy rate (Trading the Economic 2014). Equally surprising, Nigeria's poverty rate is 70% with India's poverty rate estimated at 30%, Canada 9.4%, UK 14% and Australia 2.1% (see above). This is another problem of development. It is often said a hungry man is an angry man. Poverty is capable of leading some people to violent act. For example, a study conducted by Owasa [2014] cates that Nigerian electorates sell their votes to politicians because of poverty! This is indicative of the negative influence of power development indices on human behaviour. Gever [2016] did a study on 'questioning the safe school initiative and making a case for a safe Nigeria model: The media as the nucleus'. The researcher adopted survey research design to achieve the study aim. Through a purposively sampling technique, 37 respondents were selected for the study. The result of the study showed that there could not be safe schools in the war-like zone, findings further showed that what Nigeria needs is a comprehensive approach that addresses the myriad of challenges facing the country. These challenges were identified to cover the social welfare of Nigerian citizens to strengthening of public institutions to gain public trust. Based on the result of this study, Gever propounded a safe Nigeria model as shown below:



Figure 2. Safe Nigeria Model.

Source: [Gever, 2016]

In explaining this model, Gever opines that the circular model above shows that the media are at the centre of any plan aimed at changing Nigeria for better. According to this model, the government of Nigeria, Nigerians and the media are supposed to be maintaining frequent communication. This explains why from the model, the arrows on government media, and media - Nigerians are pointing from point ends. According to Gever, Nigeria's national security will continue facing challenges if issues like the fight against corruption, poverty reduction, unemployment, provision of quality and affordable education, electoral reform, value reorientation among Nigerians, prevention of militancy and communal clashes, formidable defence and fight against insurgency are not properly handled. This model is relevant to the current study because it provides data on the impact of development on the overall peaceful co-existence of the Nigerian society. The critical argument projected in this study is that economic development underpins all other developments indices. Be it education, security, health, politics etc.; the economic factor cannot be completely ignored.

Ethnicity as a determinant in achieving national and economic development

Ethnicity has a significant role in the development agenda of any nation. Ethnicity is, however, a doubled edged sword because it can make or mar the developmental objective of a country. Yieke [2010] corroborates that in multi-ethnic communities, ethnicity is central in socioeconomic development over and above those normally present in the more homogenous communities and that the role of ethnicity in development can be negative or positive. Yieke added that it could also be a problem or a potentially rewarding challenge and regretted it is the negative aspect of ethnicity that has been publicized or researched as occasional violent ethnic conflicts have received far greater attention than years of peace in multiethnic and multi-cultural societies. Manyasa [2005], regretted that ethnic and national identities are in competition and conflict that ethnic ambitions have quickly replaced national loyalties in most African states. Yieke avers that ethnicity is not an inherently negative phenomenon because it has positive qualities which can become a powerful resource for national development when its potentiality is fully recognized and developed. Yieke thus suggests:

For those involved in guiding societal development, the challenge is to mobilize the strengths of the various ethnic groups as the resource or input in the search for the

realization of the goals of meaningful development. Such an approach to ethnicity is basically of interest to those politicians who identify the societal interests with those of their own and is consequently of no interest to political adventurers who are primarily interested in searching for a short-cut to political prominence and the fulfillment of their personal selfish interest.

The submission above suggests how ethnicity can be used to achieve development objectives by harnessing the strengths of ethnic groups to compliments the weakness of others and eventually promote developmental objectives for the benefit of all the citizens. In Nigeria, for example, there are many ethnic groups with their strengths and weaknesses. Therefore, any attempt to achieve any economic development objectives should be aimed at harnessing these groups' strength for the overall development of Nigeria. For example there the Hausa-Fulani of Northern Nigeria, The Yorubas of South-West Nigeria, the Igbos of South-East among others. These ethnic groups all have their strengths and weakness and efforts aimed at achieving developmental objectives should be geared towards maximum use of these strength for the purpose of achieving developmental goals. Noyoo [2000] observes that for ethnicity to be a determinant in achieving development goals in Sub-Saharan Africa, the question of regional autonomy must be soberly examined because regional autonomy or federalism, could nip problems of ethnicity, corruption and nepotism in the bud. Noyoo adds that this type of government would also enhance-popular participation in development as ordinary community members would add their voices to the decisions taken by their leaders or even take decisions which their leaders would be obliged to respect, policies would be more responsive to local needs as proper needs assessments would be conducted by the regional government as opposed to the central government. Adetiba and Rahim [2012], argue that while it is possible for ethnicity through exclusivism to truncate socio-political and economic development in a multi-ethnic state, the recognition of every ethnic group that they belong to a nationality and not a particular ethnic group stems the negative impacts of ethnicity. What the assertion of Adetiba and Rahim means is that ethnicity, though has its negative impacts, can be used for the benefit of the society. Adetiba and Rahim investigated the interplay between ethnicity, nationality and development in Nigeria using secondary sources and conclude that a political project that place emphasis on national integration and understanding as well as inclusion of every ethnic group

in national governance is significantly a political tool to curtailing the negative impact of ethnicity in a multi-ethnic state which will lead to an all-round development. Ranis [2011] in a study reported that ethnically polarized societies are less likely to agree on the provision of public goods and more likely to engage in rent-seeking activities providing lower levels of social capital. Initial conditions are important determinants of adverse development outcomes. Goren [2012] investigated the relationship between the two concepts of ethnicity and economic growth. The results, based on a sample of 95 countries for the period 1960-1999, suggest that the concept of ethnic fractionalization is a strong predictive measure for the direct effect of ethnicity on growth, whereas the concept of ethnic polarization has non-negligible indirect economic effects through the specified channel variables. Montalvo and Reynal-Querol [2005] analyzed the role that different indices and dimensions of ethnicity play in the process of economic development. The researcher found that ethnic (religious) polarization has a large and negative effect on economic development through the reduction of investment and the increase of government consumption and the probability of a civil conflict. Efendic and Pugh [2017] did a study to investigate the effect of ethnic diversity on individual and household economic performance in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The result showed positive economic consequences of ethnic diversity for individuals and households. After controlling for other influences, the authors estimate that both personal and family incomes are around 10% higher in ethnically diverse than in ethnically homogenous areas. Bohlken and Sergenti [2010] examined the effect of economic growth on the outbreak of Hindu-Muslim riots in 15 Indian states between 1982 and 1995. Controlling for other factors, the authors find that just a 1% increase in the growth rate decreases the expected number of riots by over 5%. It is essential to note here that although most studies have shown that ethnicity influences economic development, such studies do not examine public perceptions in this regard. It is essential to add here that most of the indicators of economic development revolve around infrastructure, human and policies. This tripod is fundamental to discourse on economic development. Kim [2006] notes that Infrastructure investment has contributory influence to increase the productivity and it is expected to contribute to future economic growth in developing countries where infrastructure is still insufficient. Easterly and Rebelo [1993] in a study found that infrastructural investment in transportation and ICT can lead to economic growth. Yoshida [2000] cited in Kim [2006] reported a positive analysis from various angles of the correlations between economic growth and the infrastructure in Japan, such as the energy, electricity, and transportation sectors over the last century in order to derive lessons that can be useful to developing countries. The researcher reported that infrastructure is essential to economic development. Apart from infrastructure, human development is another importance aspect of economic development. Daniela-Mihaela and Oana-Georgiana [2015] describe human development as

a broad concept, that includes all areas of social-human life such as a healthy, access to education, which allows attractive and well paid employment, access to different goods and services, among others. Ramirez Ranis and Stewart [2000] found that human development significantly predicts economic development and growth. Ranis [2004] also reported that the extension of the capacity and freedom lead to increased economic performance, and human development would have a significant effect on development. The last factor is policy. Government policies and programmes are fundamental to economic growth. Bryan [2013] argues that government policy has always exerted a significant influence on economic growth and new business formation.

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to examine public perceptions of the influence of ethnicity on national and economic development in Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought answers to the following:

1. To determine the relationship between ethnicity and infrastructural related economic development.
2. To determine the relationship between ethnicity and human development related economic development.
3. To determine the ways through which impact on economic development.

Methodology

The research applied survey design to prosecute this study. The population of this study was made up of all the residents of Enugu State, Nigeria. According to the National Bureau of Statistics [2012] projected up to 2016 is 3,270,798. The sample size was made up of 384. The researcher made use of the Cochran formula to derive the sample size. To selected the sample size, the researcher adopted purposive sampling technique. To implement the purposive sampling technique, the researcher purposive selected the Enugu City where there are higher chances of including people from different parts of the State into the sample. Within the capital city, the researcher purposively selected residential houses and respondents who were educated to a level of tertiary education were included in the sample. This is because such persons are more likely to know issues relating to the influence of ethnicity on national and economic development. The researcher used a self-developed questionnaire as the instrument for data collection. The questionnaire was admitted to the respondents with the aid of three research assistants who were trained for a period of two days on the administration modalities. The instrument was administered and retrieved immediately. The responses format was a four-point Likert scale. The Questionnaire was validated by three experts in the Department of Economics, University of Nigeria. The researcher use mean and standard deviation to in the analysis of data for this study. The results were presented in tables.

Results

Out of the 384 copies of the questionnaire that were administered to the respondents, 349 copies were returned and found useful. This represents 91% returned rate. The result is presented as follows:

Table 1. - Relationship Between Ethnicity and Infrastructural Related Economic Development

S/N		(n-354)		
		Mean	SD	RE
1	Electricity	2.5	.89	Accept
2	Market development	2.7	.87	Accept
3	Transportation	2.8	.65	Accept
4	Housing Scheme	2.7	.91	Accept
5	ICT	2.5	.88	Accept
6	Water scheme	2.8	.89	Accept

The result from the table above showed that all the items presented in the table above were accepted as ways through which ethnicity negatively impact on infrastructural, economic development. This is because all the items had

mean scores of 2.5 and above which was the accepted benchmark. To ascertain the public perceptions of the impact of ethnicity on human development, the following table was computed.

Table 2. - Relationship Between Ethnicity and human development Related Economic Development

S/N		(n-354) Mean	SD	RE
1	Education	2.6	.82	Accept
2	Health	2.8	.83	Accept
3	Employment	2.7	.68	Accept
4	Wealth creation	2.6	.98	Accept
5	Gender empowerment	2.8	.82	Accept

The result from the table above revealed that the respondents accepted all the items presented as ways through which ethnicity negatively impacts on human economic development. This is because all the items had mean

scores of 2.5 and above which was the accepted benchmark. The researcher probed the respondents further to ascertain how ethnicity negatively impact on economic development. The result is presented in the below table.

Table 3. - How Ethnicity impact on Economic Development

S/N		Mean	(n-354) SD	RE
1	Selection of manpower for economically related assignments	2.9	.72	Accept
2	Monitoring of related economic projects	2.6	.83	Accept
3	Holding people accountable for performance on economically related assignments	2.7	.92	Accept
4	Prosecution of offenders on economically related offences	2.6	.92	Accept
5	Location of a project with economic benefits	2.8	.84	Accept

It can be seen from the table above that the respondents accepted the items presented in the table above as ways by which ethnicity impacts economic development. All the items had mean scores 2.5 and above.

Discussion of Findings

This study investigated public perceptions of the impact of ethnicity on economic development. The result of this study showed that ethnicity negatively impacts on economic development in the area of infrastructures such as electricity, market development, transportation, housing scheme, ICT and water scheme. This result point to the fact that ethnicity could negatively affect investment in infrastructure. Studies [e.g. Kim, 2006; Easterly & Rebelo 1993] have shown that investment in infrastructure leads to a corresponding improvement in the economy. Based on this result, the researcher argues that adherence to ethnic cleavage could impede infrastructural advancements and eventually, economic development. It was also found that ethnicity negatively impacts on economic development in the area of human development such as education, health, gender empowerment, employment creation and wealth creation. This result is disturbing because of human development I essential for economic development. For example, when people get a quality education, they are likely to get good, lead decent lives and live above the poverty line. This assumption is supported by the study of Aceleanu [2012] who found that an increase in education decrease the risk of poverty. However, ethnicity negatively influences investments in human development. This is result is consistent with that of Ranis and Stewart [1998] who found that human development significantly predicts economic development and growth Finally, the findings show that the ethnicity negatively impact on economic development by way of its influence the selection of manpower for projects and programmes that have economic benefits, monitoring of related economic projects, holding people accountable

on performance on related economic assignments, prosecution of offenders on economic related offences and location of project with economic benefits. This result is consistent with that of Ranis [2011] who reported that ethnically polarized societies are less likely to agree on the provision of public goods and more likely to engage in rent-seeking activities providing lower levels of social capital. The result of this study is reflective of the situation in Nigeria where people interpret almost everything within the lances of ethnicity. Nigeria's observance of federal character in appointments has often been used as an excuse to support ethnicity. This leaves little or no space for merit. When a person is being prosecuted for an allegation of misconduct, his or her ethnic group rises in defence. A good example is the investigation of Nigeria's former First Lady, Patience Jonathan over corruption allegation. The Ijaw ethnic group has held many protests and called the prosecution as witch-hunting of the Ijaw people. The instances are many.

Conclusion/Recommendations

Based on the result of this study, the researcher concluded that ethnicity plays a critical role in Nigeria economic development. The researcher also concludes that ethnic affiliations are negatively affecting investments in infrastructural and economic development. In Nigeria today, people have become so sensitive to their ethnic leaning that merit is hardly considered the selection of people to execute projects, monitoring is also influenced by the same ethnic leaning. The basic contribution of this study is that it has provided empirical evidence regarding public perceptions of the impact of ethnicity on Nigeria's economic development. This understanding will not only shape future research on economic development but also shape policies and programmes aimed at propelling economic development. The researcher makes the following recommendations:

1. Government at the Federal level should examine all

the ethnic groups in Nigeria and their strengths harnessed for the economic development of Nigeria.

2. The National Orientation Agency plan and execute national campaigns encouraging Nigerians to be more nationalistic in their thinking and behaviour.

3. Development agencies and non-governmental organizations should plan and design campaigns aimed at promoting ethnic harmony and mutual respects among ethnic groups in Nigeria.

4. Ethnicity should be discouraged during political campaigns and other agitations.

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Огбонн, Іжеома Пауліна,
Інститут африканських досліджень,
Університет Нігерії, Нсукука, Нігерія

ЧИ Є ЕТНІЧНІСТЬ ВИЗНАЧАЛЬНОЮ ДЕТЕРМІНАНТОЮ НАЦІОНАЛЬНОЇ ЄДНОСТІ ТА ЕКОНОМІЧНОГО РОЗВИТКУ? ФОКУС НА НІГЕРІЇ.

Стаття присвячена дослідженню сприйняття суспільною думкою проблеми впливу етнічності на економічний розвиток Нігерії. З 1960 року, коли Нігерія отримала незалежність, ця найбільш густонаселена та багата на природні ресурси африканська країна постійно стикається з кризами в усіх сферах суспільного життя. Голод, інфляція, дефіцит бюджету, зовнішній борг, вуличне жебрацтво, проституція, шахрайство, злочинність у великих містах, тероризм, бідність, безробіття серед молоді, колапс обробної промисловості, корупція на державній службі та стагнація в підприємницькому розвитку - ось лише деякі проблеми, що заважають поступальному розвитку країни. Простежується зв'язок між етнічною ідентичністю з одного боку та конфліктогенністю нігерійського суспільства з іншого. Доводиться необхідність переходу від етнічної до загальнонаціональної свідомості. Описуються умови зниження конфліктогенного потенціалу етнічності за допомогою реалізації на національному рівні соціальних програм, спрямованих не лише на економічний розвиток, але й на вирішення гуманітарних проблем, таких як гідна освіта, медичне обслуговування, робочі місця, належне харчування тощо. На підставі авторського опитування було встановлено, що етнічність відіграє визначальну роль у економічному розвитку Нігерії. (Загалом у країні нараховується понад 250 етнічних груп, головними з яких є: хауса і фульбе - 29 %, йоруба - 21 %, іґбо - 18 %, іджо - 10 %, канурі - 4 %, ібібіо - 3,5 %, тів - 2,5 %). Конститується, зокрема, негативний вплив багатоетнічності на обсяг інвестицій та інфраструктуру країни: електроенергія, водопостачання, транспорт, житлове господарство, торгівля. Етнічне розмаїття негативно впливає також на гуманітарний розвиток, включаючи освіту, охорону здоров'я, розширення можливостей жінок, створення робочих місць. Обґрунтовується необхідність проведення на федеральному рівні урядових кампаній, спрямованих на популяризацію етнічної гармонії та взаємоповаги між представниками різних етносів, на заохочення нігерійців до усвідомлення національного інтересу, на використання сильних сторін етнічних груп для економічного розвитку Нігерії. Здатність уряду покращувати життя своїх громадян передбачає зрілість національної держави.

Ключові слова: етнічність; економічний розвиток; Нігерія; суспільне сприйняття.

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